160. Grievances of the Arayas.

MR. A. GOVINDAN ARAYAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Araya community was very backward in point of education. But the few people who were educated got no encouragement from the Government. The member therefore requested that qualified Araya candidates might be entertained in the Government service and that they might be exempted from the operation of the rule regarding age-bar. As regards those already in the service, the member requested that they might be confirmed soon in their appointments.

The member next suggested that Rao Saheb P. V. Gopalan, now Honorary Labour Officer under the Madras Government, might be appointed as Protector of the Depressed Classes in Travancore. Mr. Gopalan had served in several honorary posts under the Government of Madras. He was also the nominated representative of the depressed classes in the Madras Legislative Council for some time. In whatever capacity he worked he had put forth his best efforts to advance the cause of the depressed classes.

In conclusion, the member requested that an Araya member might be nominated to the next Legislative Council. The term 'Araya' as used in the Census Report included Nulayans, Valans, Mukkuvans, and Marakkans. The total strength of these classes came to over a lakh. They deserved to have a permanent representative in the Council.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY : Mr. Govindan Arayan, I have nothing more to add to what has already been stated in this Assembly by the Dewan in regard to the question of public service. In regard to your request for a general exemption of the members of your community from the rule relating to age bar, I may tell you that no such general exemption can be allowed but that individual cases when brought to the notice of Government will be considered and disposed of on their merits. You complain about the delay in the confirmation of acting incumbents. This is inevitable in the public service. Permanent vacancies occur only rarely and it takes time before acting hands are confirmed. In regard to your proposal to appoint Mr. Rao Sahib Gopalan as Protector of the Depressed Classes, you will find from the Dewan's opening address to the Assembly that the appointment of a full-time officer to look after the interests of the depressed classes has not itself been decided upon. That being the case, the question of nominating any person to the post is premature.

161. Concessions to the Ezhavas.

MR. S. KRISHNAN ASAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that in respect of their laws of inheritance the Ezhava population of the State fell into two classes *viz.*, the Makkatayis and the Misradayis. According to the Misradaya law of inheritance, one half of the properties of a person went to his own children and the other half to the children of his sisters. Most of the Ezhavas to the south of Karunagapally were Misradayis. As the representative of these Ezhavas, the member desired to bring to the notice of Government some of their grievances about the recent Ezhava Regulation.

A joint family like that of a Misradayi Ezhava was to all intents and purposes a corporation consisting as well of the deceased as of the living members of the family. The properties of the family formed, so to speak, an endowment on behalf of this corporation. The living members of the family could claim maintenance out of the properties, while for the deceased, their souls sought propitiation out of the rites and ceremonies for the performance of which these properties were to be utilised. But the effect of the Ezhava Regulation was to destroy the corporate nature of the family and its properties. By introducing the principle of individual partition, the Regulation dealt a death-blow at the time-honoured joint family.

Now, there were many thousands of Ezhavas who desired to get exemption from the operation of the Ezhava Regulation. The number of such people could not, as some people alleged, be counted on the fingers. Indeed, a perusal of the lists

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of persons who had already got exemption would give an idea of the widespread unpopularity of the Regulation. The proper course under the circumstances would have been for Government to pass the Regulation and to leave people free to bring themselves within its scope. But instead of doing that Government had, to begin with, roped in everybody within the Regulation, and then asked those who so chose to get out of it. Not only that, a date was also fixed within which all exemptions had to be obtained. Many people availed themselves of the opportunity, but many others could not, for various circumstances. These people were now eager to get another opportunity. It would be a great boon to the community if Government allowed them a chance. A special officer might also be appointed to scrutinise their applications. If Government thought it too much for them to appoint an officer a second time, the community was willing to meet all the expenses on that account.

The member next took up the subject of coir industry in the State. Articles worth about a crore of rupees were every year being exported from the State in the form of coir, coir mats etc., But the greater portion of the profits of this big trade fell into the hands of the Banya middlemen. The native producers had no direct communication with the foreign consumers. Nor had they any direct communication with the steamship companies or the transporting agencies. They had no idea of the foreign market or of the people who wanted their goods. In order to help the producers in these matters, a Trade Agent should be appointed in any of the important trading centres in Europe or in our own country at Alleppey or at both places.

Another matter which the member took up was the working of the Ayurveda Department. He associated himself, he said, with all that was said on this subject by another member, Mr. K. P. Martandan Vaidyan except in regard to the remarks which the latter made about the present Director of Ayurveda. Mr. Sankara Menon, the present Director, was in the opinion of the member, one of the fittest persons to hold that place. Leaving this aside, Government should give due encouragement to the hereditary Vaidyans in the State. They should be given grants-in-aid in the same way as the diploma-holding Vaidyans. Expert Vaidyans in the treatment of eye-diseases, poison-treatment, and treatment of leprosy should also be given special subsidies by Government.

Finally, the member said that while appointing women in the public service, Government should not forget the claims of the Ezhava community. Government should also bear in mind the need for nominating representatives of the Misradayi Ezhavas to the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY: Mr. Krishnan Asan, I can only refer you to the Dewan's reply to the representation made by Mr. K. R. Padmanabhan Vaidyan at the 23rd session of the Assembly on the subject of the Ezhava Regulation and Misradaya Ezhavas. The Dewan specifically pointed out that Government would not be justified in introducing a Bill of their own to amend Regulation III of 1100.

The appointment of an Official Trade Agent at Alleppey appears hardly called for, seeing that the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries are always ready to render the necessary help and advice in matters relating to industries and trade. The question of giving special encouragement to renowned hereditary Vaidyans in the country will be referred to the Director of Ayurveda for remarks.

162. Needs of the Ezhava community.

MR. M. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that Ezhavas were very poorly represented in many departments, particularly in the Judicial Department. Leaving alone the places of High Court and District Court judges, one could consider the appointments of Munsiffs which were filled by Ezhavas. In recent years there were only two instances of Ezhavas appointed as Munsiffs, one in 1083 and the other twelve years afterwards in 1095. Neither of these officers was now in the service, with the result that there was not a single Ezhava Munsiff in the service at the present time.

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